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Lamont Still on Red Beam

Forliss Lamont, back in the news after a long and welcome respite, didn't miss the opportunity to show that the so-called National Council of American-Soviet Friendship isn't any healthier to this country now than it was when he founded it years ago.

The recent Barghoorn affair, naturally enough, has come up. The council celebrated the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two nations. But why couldn't Lamont have dropped the subject after saying "we can be glad" Professor Barghoorn is safe at home?

Instead, with Soviet ambassador and other dignitaries enjoying it, he went into a long tirade charging the CIA with paying American travelers to spy in Russia without

offering a scintilla of evidence!

What else could Lamont have meant than that any mistake the Soviets may have made in the Barghoorn incident was perfectly natural?

With any pretense at trying to promote better relations between the two countries, or even trying to be fair, the chairman of the Council of American-Soviet Friendship would have given equal time to what President Kennedy and Professor Barghoorn had said — that he was not asked to do any intelligence work and had not done so.

A real friend of America, instead of the Soviets, would have told the Soviet ambassador and other Russian dignitaries to their faces: "Your lousy secret police just framed him!"

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